

**First Circular and Call for Abstracts**  
**WD-CAG 2015: Contested Economies and Environments**  
**13-14 March 2015**  
**Prince George, BC**

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The Geography Program at UNBC is pleased to extend an invitation to the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WD-CAG). The meeting will be held **March 13-14, 2015** at UNBC's Prince George Campus.

While we invite submissions from all areas of geographic scholarship, the theme of the meeting is ***Contested Economies and Environments***. The recent release of the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has added to a growing chorus of voices calling for major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and an end to dependence on fossil fuel energy. These calls come at a time when senior levels of government in Western Canada have expressed a clear commitment to enhance the region's role as an oil and gas provider to the rest of the world. Against this backdrop of conflicting objectives, heated debates abound about the future of resource-based economic development, environmental assessment, and land use conflict involving First Nations and various resource economic interests. In short, policy and scholarly debates concerning community and regional futures in Western Canada are as vibrant and relevant as ever, and WD-CAG members are well poised to make meaningful contributions to these debates.

Those wishing to present their research are invited to submit a digital abstract in MS-Word to Dr. Neil Hanlon ([hanlon@unbc.ca](mailto:hanlon@unbc.ca)). The file should include a title (100 characters or less), complete list of authors and affiliations (lead author listed first), an abstract of 250 words or less, and up to five key word terms separated by semi-colons. Please also clearly indicate the type of presentation (i.e., paper or poster). If the lead author is a student, please indicate in a covering email whether you wish the presentation to be considered for a student award and, if so, the appropriate student category (i.e., Undergraduate, Masters or PhD). In cases where a student is presenting work completed in an earlier degree, the appropriate adjudication category is the one in which you are presently enrolled.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 14 February 2015. It is the responsibility of authors to ensure the accuracy and quality of abstract submissions (i.e., they will not be edited before inclusion in the Conference Final Programme).

Those wishing to organize special sessions (papers or panel discussion) must contact Dr. Hanlon with an email attachment containing a session title and up to 250 word description. If the

names of presenters or panelists are known, please also provide this information in a covering email. The deadline for registering special sessions is January 30.

The preliminary schedule of events (draft and subject to change) is as follows:

### **Friday March 13**

9:00am -5:00pm	Field Trips (details to follow)
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Reception, Registration
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Key Note Presentation – Dr. Charles Helm The Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark - A First for Western North America (Canfor Theatre, UNBC)
9:00pm – 12:00am	Pub Night at the Thirsty Moose (UNBC Student Society Pub)

### **Saturday March 14**

8:00am – 9:00am	Registration
9:00am – 12:00pm	Concurrent Paper & Poster Sessions (refreshment breaks provided)
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Catered Lunch (costs included with Registration)
1:45pm – 4:45pm	Concurrent Paper & Poster Sessions (refreshment breaks provided)
4:30pm – 6:00 pm	AGM
6:30pm – 1:30am	Banquet (UNBC Campus)

Additional information about the conference, including the keynote address, field trips, accommodations and banquet will be available on the conference website (<https://www.eply.com/2015-57th-Annual-WD-CAG>). The site is still in development and will be updated regularly, so please bookmark it for easy reference.

Registration will be done online (<http://resweb.res.unbc.ca/wd-cag/index.htm>), and a link is also available on the conference website. Early bird registration rates are \$50 for students and \$75 for faculty (not including GST). The early bird deadline is 30 January 2015. Rates afterwards are \$65 for students and \$90 for faculty. The final deadline for registration is March 7.

Please contact Dr. Neil Hanlon (250-960-5881, [hanlon@unbc.ca](mailto:hanlon@unbc.ca)) for additional information.